



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2007

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COUNTY LAUNCHES HELICOPTER TO COMBAT MOSQUITOES

Larvicide Will Be Used to Reduce Mosquito Breeding and the Risk of West Nile Virus

WHAT: County Vector Control will use a helicopter to apply mosquito larvicide to local wetlands to reduce mosquito breeding and the risk of West Nile virus (WNV). The aerial applications will occur monthly at numerous key breeding areas during the mosquito breeding season. The larvicide is not toxic to humans and does not pose a risk to wildlife or the environment.

WHY: Controlling mosquito breeding is essential in preventing the spread of West Nile virus. Aerial applications are planned every four weeks until the weather cools off in the fall. Please be sure to check the link below for additional details and application dates.

WHEN: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday April 18, 2007 (dependent on the weather)

WHERE: Thirty-nine locations throughout San Diego County of San Diego. For a list of specific locations, click on our Web site link at

http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/deh/chd/wnv/wnv_aerialgraphs.html

VISUALS: Helicopter fly-over and aerial application of mosquito larvicide.

BACKGROUND: In 2006, there were 292 human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in California that resulted in 7 deaths. One human death occurred in adjoining Riverside County. Four birds have already tested positive for WNV in San Diego County this year. Typically, the first aerial treatment occurs in May, but due to an increase in mosquito populations, treatment will begin now.

Editor's note regarding upcoming event: A West Nile Virus Awareness Week media event will be held on Friday, April 27, 2007 at the Chula Vista Nature Center. A media advisory will be sent out at that time. Public officials and technical experts will be available to answer questions. Visuals will include a horse, birds of prey and West Nile virus educational materials.

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